

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SINGAP 02815 230801Z
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ONY-00 /021 W
-----026793 231057Z /23
R 230700Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0570
INFO NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 2815

LIMDIS

DEPT FOR EA ONLY

NSC FOR ARMACOST

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EINV, SN, US
SUBJECT: DRAFT INVESTMENT TREATY FOR SINGAPORE

REF: A) STATE 157078, B) SINGAPORE 2564

1. I WAS DISMAYED TO LEARN FROM REF A THAT SUBMISSION OF A DRAFT INVESTMENT TREATY TO THE GOS MAY BE DELAYED UNTIL AFTER THE US-ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETINGS IN AUGUST. AS WE HAVE NOTED IN EARLIER CABLES, THE PRESIDENT PROMISED PRIME MINISTER LEE A DRAFT TREATY LAST OCTOBER LARGELY AS COMPENSATION FOR SINGAPORE'S LOSS OF OPIC COVERAGE. WE ASSUMED, AS WE ARE SURE THE GOS ALSO ASSUMED, THAT A DRAFT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING WITHIN A FEW WEEKS. I CANNOT HELP THINKING THAT THE PRESIDENT'S CREDIBILITY HAS ALREADY BEEN DAMAGED AND WILL SUFFER FURTHER IF THE GOS DOES NOT HAVE A DRAFT WELL BEFORE THE US-ASEAN MEETINGS. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, I SERIOUSLY WONDER WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE BETTER TO INFORM THE GOS THAT WE ARE NOT READY AT THIS TIME TO GIVE THEM A DRAFT AND WILL LET THEM KNOW WHEN WE CAN DO SO, RATHER THAN PUTTING THEM OFF WITH
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EXPLANATIONS OF THE DELAYS CAUSED BY OUR BUREAUCRATIC PROCESSES.

2. I WOULD, HOWEVER, APPRECIATE A PRIORITY REVIEW OF THE SITUATION BY THE OFFICERS AND AGENCIES INVOLVED TO FIND A WAY TO PRODUCE A DRAFT TEXT FOR THE GOS WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. IT IS NOT THAT THE GOS IS EXPRESSING IMPATIENCE--THEY DID NOT REQUEST THE TREATY IN THE FIRST PLACE AND HAVE NOT ASKED

ABOUT IT FOR SOME TIME--BUT THAT IT MUST SEEM TO THE GOS
THAT A PERSONAL PRESIDENTIAL COMMITMENT IS BEING TAKEN RATHER
LIGHTLY BY THE USG. GIVING THEM A TEXT IMMEDIATELY BEFORE
THE AUGUST US-ASEAN MEETINGS WILL SEEM A CONTRIVED WAY OF
"DOING SOMETHING FOR SINGAPORE". ON THE OTHER HAND, IF WE
DO NOT COME UP WITH A TEXT BY THEN, WE MAY FIND THE SUBJECT
RAISED, AT LEAST BILATERALLY, IN CONNECTION WITH THE AGENDA'S
ITEM ON OPIC AND OTHER INVESTMENT QUESTIONS.
INGRAHAM

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